

New Ways at Golf.

"Hit Clean and Follow Through"
the Present Axiom of Success.

"Hit clean and follow through" is the present day axiom in golf. It has been the slogan that came with the game from Scotland, when St. Andrews at Yonkers was our only link. "Don't press, slow back and keep your eye on the ball." Kipling has written that when an American learns the innermost meaning of this phrase he is for practical purposes denationalized. The facts do not bear out the fiction. Our players cannot and obeyed the saying until they found it was not wholly sound; then, in the way to prove their true Americanism, they forthwith invented new methods and new tools of the game, the clubs being the lively ball, which travels further than the solid gutta percha and does not crack the club heads. To a degree, the change in the axioms hinges on the new ball.

With the Scots, a very full swing has always been the first principle of good style in driving. Willie Park, Jr., the first champion to come over here, had a swing of the true heel-tapping sort, and the professional most prominent here in 1895 and 1900 took pride in the same full circle of the club-head. There was little pause at the top of the swing, and the club head seemed to go back as quickly as it came down. Our amateurs noted that the professionals got long and straight balls, although themselves ignoring the maxim they taught so volubly. This even in the early days, sounded the knell of "slow back."

The professionals who began to come over after 1890 were mostly young men, who had learned from Vardon and Taylor that the very full swing was only needed when using a very long shaft. They used shorter shafts, shorter swings and quicker ones. Our players, who meantime were developing nearly the same method, were still fearful that they were doing wrong. One reason was that H. J. Whigham, C. B. Macdonald and Findlay Douglas, are all full-swing advocates, although not one of them is "slow back." Whigham, in particular, being a quick hitter. This feeling of discontent vanished with the coming of Harry Vardon and J. H. Taylor, both short-shaft, "hit hard and follow through" disciples, for so our players analyzed their styles. The summing up was, that as racehorses run in all shapes, so golfers may succeed in all styles.

The fundamentals left are that the ball must be hit neatly and in such a manner that the club head must go along with it. To do this, the club head must traverse a circle, but the lines at the top need not overlap, nor indeed need the upper segment be completed, if to do so weakens the hitting force. In a word, the ball is not jabbed at, but struck with a swinging blow.

Walter J. Travis, H. M. Harriman, Quincy A. Shaw, Jr., of Boston, Walter Smith of Chicago, A. H. Smith of Philadelphia and many more who have not been bracketed as champions had learned this axiom of hit clean and follow through in the days of the solid ball and long shafts. They were all, however, constantly trying to lengthen out their swing, on the theory that it would lengthen out their game. In spite of their tournament successes, until Vardon's visit. The rubber-cored ball came soon afterward, but our players had thrown off the allegiance to "slow back" before its advent. The backward swing, as it is only preparatory to the real stroke, like the backward swing in baseball, will never be as forceful as the forward swing, but it is made just as quickly. There is no gain in dwelling on it.

There were contestants in the recent championships abroad, at Muirfield and Prestwick, who could recall the feather ball, the birth of the hand-hammered gutta, the change from wooden spoons to irons, the banishment of the long-faced driver for the small bulgeheads and supple shafts, and the congenial meeting of the old and new schools was one of the most pleasant features of the championships. Here our memories are not a decade old, and the changes are not so sweeping. But the effort to change the conditions was manifest from the start, while abroad the changes were taken up slowly and forced on the players. Our eagery did not always produce the best results, nor is it always recalled with unstinted approval.

Our first display of energy was in the laying out of links. As it happened, the stretches of turf most to be desired did not lie at the doorsteps of the clubs most desirous of taking up the game. It became, therefore, a matter of constructive skill to establish first the wide fields of deep-cropped grass. Forests were denuded, hills blasted away, ravines filled, with a disregard of cost and a haste to indicate the golfers had taken the contract to alter the country to a Scotch moor. There were further extravagances in the way of high cop bunkers or terraced putting greens that are not recalled now with equanimity. Later on, the suitable stretch of land was hunted for before the golf club was started up, while, on the first courses, the bunkers were razed and the putting greens changed.

With the advice as to "don't press and slow back," in the early days, as a salve to cure the wounded feelings of the wights after repeated failures to succeed, the opinion was often stated that to get the true style one must be born in Scotland. The inventive genius of our players was, therefore, in rebellion against this dictum and against the material difficulties of the full shot from the tee and through the green. Drivers and brasses of odd shapes and patterns were as thick as leaves in Valombrosa; patent tees were as many, and nearly every amateur had a formula as to placing the ball that would prevent topping or scuffling. A straw placed before the ball, the club head to be carried along its line after the impact, was one of the formulas to prevent fooling on the tee.

The full shot from wood fairly mastered, the inventors had their turn with the iron and then with putters. But with the general comprehension of the game in all its departments the freak clubs disappeared, the players finding it safest to rely on the standard types, of suitable weight, balance and length of shaft. The round pegs, it had been learned, need not be fitted by force into the square sockets of Scotland.

As to golf balls our inventors had been taxing their brains to procure a substitute for gutta percha, one set striving to produce a cheaper ball than those imported that ranged in price from \$3.50 to \$4 a dozen, another set aiming to get a ball that would fly better and be consequently in greatest demand, no matter what the cost. Hollow steel, compressed steel filings, celluloid, pressed ivory—a hundred different compounds—were experimented with in the

new-and-odd race for the honor of introducing these clubs, but to an American alone is due the invention of an aluminum gutta on a principle that makes it a readily club in long approaches.

Although confined to the decade, the changes wrought in America in the game are nearly as many, and certainly as epoch-making, as the last fifty years have brought forth in Great Britain. We have still coming to us from Morris will live to see them) the outcome of experiments with clubs having inner chambers of compressed air to promote elasticity, and of balls with pneumatic cores.

In taking up with the new in the impetuosity of the game, our amateurs have been encouraged by the results obtained

up of the gap that even two years ago divided Travis and Douglas from those in the class below them, while the old third class is stepping on the heels of the grade above them. The early tournaments have been out in the Metropolitan Golf Association championship, and the belief that the state of affairs will be established more positively than ever before is creating an unusual eagerness to witness the play in the impending trial of national championships, the open amateur and the women's Vardon's swing, while it lacks the elegance of Willie Park, Jr.'s, is a very full compared to J. H. Taylor's, which is a three-quarter swing of the most positive sort, and our players have as a class merged

gone. The club goes back quickly, with little movement of the hips, but hips and body turn most easily on the sweeping finish, and the club is carried well around over the left shoulder. In the Metropolitan and at Garden City Travis met with defeat, but this simply showed that the gap has been closed up that formerly made him an amateur in a separate class, and on the occasions there was something lacking in the temperament with which he entered the match, for the player cannot always be in the aggressive mood. That the shorter back swing has not affected Travis's game has been amply demonstrated on other occasions, notably in the recent four-ball match at Baltusrol, where the open championship is to be played on June 18

and H. Chandler Egan, while among last year's winners Allan Kennerley and Charles R. Sneyd belong in the same category. The last two have particularly graceful styles, that yet give the impression of power. Sneyd has not been on his game this season, but he has still time to get in trim before the Connecticut championship next month and defend worthily the title he has won twice in succession. Kennerley, while beaten in the Metropolitan by Douglas and shown of his title of champion at the New Jersey State tournament, is playing with undiminished force. As an instance, against the wind he made the ninth green at Duval, of 53 yards, in two shots, and the second, of 60 yards, was also within his power in two drives.

our players would be pleased to see Douglas try the challenge, but he is too conservative to seek any benefits at the sacrifice of his home-taught ideas. He was almost the last to take up with the rubber-cored ball.

The Chicago youth, H. Chandler Egan, who holds the championship of the Western Golf Association and the Intercollegiate Golf Association and three weeks ago won out from a field of 150 starters in the open tournament of the Country Club, Brookline, is regarded by many as the most orthodox player in the country. He is still at Harvard, and from the soundness and solidity of his play would seem to have a chance for the amateur championship honors before his career is over on the links. His cousin, Walter E. Egan, is also a brilliant golfer, but H. Chandler Egan is the more consistent of the two. He gets great distance, and, like H. B. MacFarland, during the intercollegiate a year ago at Garden City, he is credited with driving to the slope running to the road before the eighth green, nearly gaining the record drive of Travis, of 300 yards, on the same hole last February. Chandler Egan holds the hands very high at the top of the swing, but there is no pause to mark a rest before the down stroke, the upward and downward strokes being free and quick, but very pretty to watch. Quickness and confidence in results seem the keynote of his style.

Two players who may be relied on to gain good results, Frank O. Reinhart and Eben M. Myers, gained renown last season by defeating Travis in critical matches, and the former has repeated the performance this year, and on Travis's home links. Both are of the clean-hitting, quick back school, and follow through most effectively. Reinhart has a tendency to pull, and always stands to allow for it, and his finish, which is always the same, is marked by a hitch and a bending of the crossed knees that suggests Douglas's finish, but is more pronounced. The club head is carried to the limit, the body swinging clear around at the hips, as on a pivot, and at the finish both heels are off the ground, and the right knee, in the rise to aid the turning of the body, is so twisted that he stands crouched. But Reinhart gets good results, and the swing is an easy one, that never tires him, so there is no need to change in to get among the orthodox. There is no carry too far for him, with wood or iron, and it is better to be among the select of whom this may be said than to be titled ultra-orthodox in style.

The winner and runner up in the New Jersey State championship a fortnight ago, M. M. Michael and N. B. Cole, have been in the game nearly as long as it has been played in this country, and they have gone through all the experimental stages of style. Cole has settled down to a well-balanced three-quarter swing and good follow through, and, as he is able to get great strength into his drives, he gets off a long and straight ball. Cole was only 1 down to Michael at the end of the morning eighteen holes in the New Jersey championship, but the latter went out in 37 in the afternoon, play Harry Vardon might envy, and gained a commanding lead. Michael has been from the early days an innovator, for he holds the shaft "overhanded," the right hand at the top of the leather and the left below it, exactly the reverse way of the usual grip. A few baseball players hold the bat the same way and it was in that game that Michael acquired the trick. In the days of the solid gutta ball Michael was always striving to win the following, and he was very wild in direction, but always famous for the distance of his drives. He was one of the first to shorten the swing and to make "hit clean and follow through" the guiding axiom. One reason that impelled him was perhaps a trivial one, but it set Michael on the right path. A friend at old St. Andrews, seeking to get some words of wisdom at the fountain-head of believed in "don't press and slow back."

"Deed, ye'll jist gae back like the de'il an' dunt like the de'il to drive wur way," replied the Scot.

"Dunt like the de'il" has never been forgotten by Michael, and now, with the new ball, while wild at times, he seems to be able to get just the distance he wants. In the New Jersey championship he made the first green, 433 yards, right along with a drive and a creak shot. It was a 4 for him on all but two of the seven times he had to play it, and once, through a longish put, he had a 3 there. The overhand style of gripping the club, in the opinion of Michael, simplifies the follow through and enables him to get the full force of wrist, arms and shoulders into the finish.

The women players in the preliminary swings on the tee have a regular round-the-circle swing, but, as the motion sometimes ends with a dainty prouette, it proves nothing but diligent practice before a mirror. In the actual drive the swing is perceptibly shortened.

Mrs. Charles T. Stout, however, has a beautifully rounded full swing, in which the speed sensibly quickens just before the impact, and her follow through is equally good. Her style is nearer to that of the Willie Park school than any of our amateurs, men or women. She has an undisputed lead in the long game among the women, and but for the lapses that all flesh is heir to in the approaches and in putting, Mrs. Stout would be absolutely unbeatable. Her two predecessors in the title of national woman champion, Miss Frances C. Griscom and Miss Beatrix Hoyt, possess good three-quarter swings in play and follow through with great dash. Neither gets very long balls from the tee, but they store for this by the utmost accuracy in holding the flag. Miss Beatrix Anthony and Mrs. F. A. Manice, respectively the Chicago and New York leaders in local championship tournaments, are most conspicuous for the steadiness of their drives rather than for great distance. Miss F. C. Osgood, who has just won the championship of the Boston women's league, is of the same order on the tee, but she beat in the final one of the longest drivers in the circle of women players, Miss Harriet Curtis.

The recent Women's Metropolitan championship brought out two long drivers in Miss Ruth Badgley, who has an easy three-quarter swing, and Miss F. Louise Vanderhoof, who were beaten, respectively, in the semi-final and final by Mrs. Manice. Miss Vanderhoof, although she did not win the title, earned a full meed of distinction by beating Mrs. Stout in the semi-final, during the match making a 4 on five holes in succession, which would be par for a scratch man of the club. She is nearly as long a driver as Mrs. Stout, yet she always uses a brassie, the feature of her stroke being the quick backward swing and "hit clean and follow through." Her skill with the brassie bears out J. H. Taylor's dictum that "when a golfer discovers he is better suited by his brassie, and that he is more at home with it in his hand, he really does not see why he should not use it, even in driving from the tee."

Taylor has in part outlined the new gospel of the American golfers, which is to lead them on to still greater eminence, here and abroad. It is: "Use what suits you best, hit clean and follow through."

latter quest, the problem at last being solved satisfactorily by the introduction



E. M. BYERS.



FINDLAY DOUGLAS.



FRANK O. REINHART.



MARC M. MICHAEL.



N. B. COLE.

THE START.



E. M. BYERS.



FINDLAY DOUGLAS.



FRANK O. REINHART.



MARC M. MICHAEL.



N. B. COLE.

THE FINISH.

of the rubber-cored gutta percha ball. This now rules supreme on the links around the world and it is a genuine Yankee notion. Contemporary with it came the use of

to discard the stilted style taught as the one worthy method in the early days of the game here. That they are right is proven by the better average game in

in their style Taylor's back swing with the Vardon follow through. They have found that sufficient power can be obtained with this stroke, with the maximum of accuracy in

and 27, in which the amateur fairly carried off the honors from the professionals, George Low, Alexander Smith and Stewart Gardner.

Douglas brought his full swing with him from Scotland in 1897, and he has been faithful to it. He is unexcelled as a consistently long driver, but he is often wild



MISS GRISCOM.



MISS VANDERHOOF.



MISS BADGLEY.



MRS. MANICE.



MISS ANTHONY.

THE START.



MISS GRISCOM.



MISS VANDERHOOF.



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THE FINISH.

aluminum as a substitute for irons for use through the green and in putting, our inventors running those of Great Britain a

our championships and the open tournaments. The general average of play is steadily improving, and there is a closing

direction. Travis, the greatest student of detail in this country, has this year shortened his back swing in a most marked de-

Among those most conspicuous for their performances this year who have a very full swing may be placed Findlay Douglas

in direction, due, perhaps, to his hitch at the finish of the stroke. If shorter shafts and swing back would give greater